

REMARKS

Claim 12 has been cosmetically amended. Claims 1 to 14 remain active in this application of which claims 1 to 11 and 13 have now been indicated to be allowed or allowable.

Claims 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al. (US 6,482,290) in view of Tolles (US 6,702,651). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

To begin with, the Declaration of the undersigned previously filed can be further antedated to eliminate Tolles as a reference, if necessary. However, a review of Cheng et al. and particularly the section cited by the examiner clearly establishes that Cheng et al. nowhere teaches or even remotely suggests the invention as claimed. If anything, Cheng et al. teaches away from the invention. As can be seen with reference to Figs. 5A to 5C of Cheng et al. and the associated text, the dispensing device operates in a half-circular path (column 7, line 23) and accordingly the dispensing device never provides the step of “dispensing a wash material to said polishing pad all along an area from the circumference of said polishing surface to the most center portion of said polishing surface about and including said axis while said polishing pad is rotating”. It follows that Cheng et al. fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed. Tolles, even if it were available as a reference, fails to overcome the deficiencies of Cheng et al. as demonstrated above.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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